

Question: How does Ta-Nehisi Coates use rhetorical appeals to convey how false narratives and truths impact the physical and psychological nature of one's body?

Point

Evidence

Analysis

Language

Summary Statement

In his memoir "Between the World and Me," Ta-Nehisi Coates uses ethos to communicate how **false narrative and truths** impact on the psychology of the mind and the physical nature of one's **body**. These false narratives that he presents exist in every culture all around the world because of power structures that are in place in society. In the United States, these false narratives are an even bigger problem with our current political situation. Coates addresses these false narratives when he is recalling his experiences with poetry during his studies at Howard University, he asserts that "These truths carried the black body beyond the slogans and gave it color and texture and thus reflected the spectrum I saw out in the Yard more than all of my alliterative talk of guns and revolutions or paens to the lost dynasties of African antiquity." (page 52). The guns and revolutions that Coates references are the historical incidents that have been "lost" because power structures have dismantled these histories and have stripped away cultures of their identity. He references Africa a lot, but this type of disempowerment occurs on a global scale. The idea of "color and texture" that he presents offers powerful imagery. When you see colors, there is a spectrum and multiple perspectives that can be gained through this lens of thinking. Black and white thinking is perilous, and those who are not open to colors and various "textures" endanger their mindset and thinking. Coates presents the imagery of "textures." When one thinks of textures, there is roughness or smoothness to the notion of "textures." Don't readers have to experience these textures to better equip their thinking and their overall mindset? Coates uses sophisticated language, or diction to express the complexity of his ideas. This diction compels a reader to re-read the long sentences and to process the beauty, eloquence, and power of his words. In this part of his memoir, Coates presents these discordant ways of thinking as "truths" that must be expressed, namely by poetry, since this form of expression, for Coates, empowers thinking and drives narratives to be communicated. In summary, Coates wants the world to be more mindful and conscious of the "false narratives" that exist in not just the African iniquity that he references, but also in a global realm of political dissonance. In the end, communication is stunted and cannot grow and properly develop if power structures perpetuate its growth. **Word Count: 401**

